

Administrative Offices

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[WeArePublicHealth.org](https://www.WeArePublicHealth.org)

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Dear School Partners,

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) have worked to develop a system to supply schools with BinaxNOW Self-Tests for the rapid detection of COVID-19 in K-12 students and staff. This testing program augments resources already available in the community and in schools including existing BinaxNOW testing initiatives, pooled testing provided through ADHS, and community testing events and sites such as retail pharmacies.

Schools can now order these test kits through the MCDPH [resource request tool](https://ppe.maricopa.gov) (PPE.maricopa.gov). MCDPH can accommodate initial requests of 12 or 24 tests per school site. If you order more than 24 tests, you will receive 24 tests initially. We are asking public schools to coordinate the ordering and distribution of tests through their district office. Charter schools and private schools should order directly through the resource request tool.

These test kits are distributed by the manufacturer (Abbott) as 2-test kits. For the purposes of this program, we are asking schools to break the supplied boxes down and supply individual tests to students, staff, and household members. Each box contains 2 sets of instructions, one in English and one in Spanish. Additional electronic copies of the instructions as well as a demonstration video will be made available on the [MCDPH COVID-19 Schools webpage](#).

MCDPH requests schools to continue reporting all known COVID-19 cases (i.e., positive antigen or PCR test) in students, staff, and educators to MCDPH using the [online school reporting form](#), regardless of where the test was done. Schools are required to report suspected outbreaks to MCDPH within 24 hours. MCDPH, ADHS, and CDC define a school outbreak as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with illness onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically-linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

MCDPH recommends non-school affiliated persons (i.e., family and household members) who test positive for COVID-19 using a BinaxNOW test distributed by the school report positive results to their primary care provider (PCP). If a non-school affiliated person does not have a PCP, they can report their positive test result by calling (602) 506-6767.

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact us at schoolhealth@maricopa.gov.

BinaxNOW Antigen Self-Test Use Cases

BinaxNOW tests are recommended for use in the following situations:

1. **Symptomatic staff or student presents at school:** individual leaves school and isolates until determined to be COVID-19 or other illness. Send individual home with a BinaxNOW test to perform at home. Report results to school health worker for next steps. Alternately, with guardian permission, a BinaxNOW test can be performed at school with appropriate PPE including medical mask, eye covering, gown and gloves.
 - a. If positive, follow guidance for [home isolation](#).
 - b. If negative, follow standard school illness policy for non-COVID-19.
2. **Symptomatic staff or student calls in ill from home:** individual stays home and isolates until determined to be COVID-19 or other illness. Have non-ill person pick-up and deliver a BinaxNOW test to perform at home. Report results to school health worker for next steps.
 - a. If positive, follow guidance for [home isolation](#).
 - b. If negative, follow standard school illness policy for non-COVID-19.
3. **Unvaccinated individual who does not have any symptoms is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case in the school setting:** individual is sent home to [quarantine](#). BinaxNOW test can be sent home with the individual or a representative can be sent to school to pick-up a BinaxNOW test. **After 5 full days following their last exposure** (i.e., on day 6 or 7 of quarantine) the close contact can take the test.
 - a. If positive, follow guidance for [home isolation](#).
 - b. If negative and the individual remains asymptomatic, they can return to school after 7 full days following their last exposure (i.e., on day 8). Mask use and symptom monitoring are recommended for 14 days following a close contact's last exposure, regardless of vaccination status and when quarantine ends.
4. **Fully vaccinated individual who does not have any symptoms is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case in the school setting:** individual can remain in school as long as they are asymptomatic. A BinaxNOW test can be sent home to be performed 3-5 days after their last exposure to ensure individual does not have asymptomatic infection.
 - a. If positive, follow guidance for [home isolation](#).
 - b. If negative, individual can continue to attend school. Mask use and symptom monitoring is recommended for 14 days following a close contact's last exposure, regardless of vaccination status.

Tests can also be made available to household members of school staff or students who are symptomatic to determine if the student or staff are close contacts of a case.